



BIOGRAPHY

Rick Obenschain

Director of Flight Programs and Projects, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Mr. Obenschain was appointed as the Director of Flight Programs and Projects Directorate in September of 2004 and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the more than 40 Space and Earth Science missions in formulation or implementation at Goddard as well as the coordination of the Earth Science Technology Office and the Advanced Concepts and Technology Office.

Mr. Obenschain began his career with NASA at GSFC in the early 60's as a summer engineering aide, accepting a full-time position in the power systems development area in 1966 upon his graduation. He has worked almost exclusively on hardware development projects since 1966, with emphasis in electrical systems. In 1982, after serving 5 years as a supervisor in the GSFC Engineering Directorate, Mr. Obenschain assumed the position of Observatory Manager for the Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory.

Upon his return to NASA in 1988 after working in private industry as a Program Manager for an aerospace company, Mr. Obenschain served as the Deputy Project Manager for the GSFC Space Station Freedom Development Project. In October 1989, he was appointed Project Manager for the EOS Platforms Project, a position he maintained until his selection as the GOES Project Manager. With the successful launch and in-orbit checkout of GOES-8, Mr. Obenschain transferred to the Landsat Project.

Mr. Obenschain was appointed to the position of Project Manager in September 1994 with the transfer of Landsat-7 from the Department of Defense. In December 1996, he was appointed Project Manager of the Earth Science Data and Information System (ESDIS) Project, a position he held until October 1998 when he assumed responsibility for the leadership of the Electrical Systems Center within AETD.

Mr. Obenschain was selected as the Director of the Applied Engineering and Technology Directorate in June 2000, having previously served as the Deputy Director of AETD since October 1999.



NASA Project Management Conference



BIOGRAPHY

Mr. Obenschain earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Maryland. He is the recipient of NASA's Distinguished Service Medal, Exceptional Service Medal, Outstanding Leadership Medal, Equal Opportunity Medal, and Goddard's Award of Merit. He is the 1995 recipient of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) von Braun Award for Excellence in Space Program Management.



NASA Project Management Conference